United Nations S/2001/1167

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 December 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 10 December 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a communication dated 3 December 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

[Original: English]

Letter dated 3 December 2001 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Council.

(*Signed*) George **Robertson**

Enclosure

Monthly report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. Over the reporting period (1-31 October 2001), there were just over 19,000 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with contributions from all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and from 15 non-NATO countries.

2. During the period under review, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained relatively stable. The Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued its mission of ensuring a safe and secure environment throughout the area.

3. During the night of 30 September/1 October, an explosive device was thrown at the house of a local imam in Zepce; there was material damage but no injuries. On 19 October, a hand grenade was thrown at a villa in Gacko, and later the same day a women died in an arson attack in Derventa.

4. SFOR troops were attacked on two separate occasions: on 8 October, a grenade which did not explode was thrown at a fuel tanker convoy travelling from Simin Han to Priboj; and on 21 October, an SFOR patrol near Camp Butmir was attacked with about 15 to 20 rounds of automatic rifle fire — there were no injuries. These are the first violent incidents directed at SFOR since the anti-fraud operation conducted at the Hercegovaka Banka in April.

5. SFOR troops continued to monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces, to conduct weapons storage site inspections and consolidations, and to provide support to the international organizations in theatre, and to local authorities collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation Harvest. Two underground bunkers of military equipment and 20 cases of ammunition were discovered in the vicinity of Han Pijesak.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. The situation in theatre remained relatively calm throughout the reporting period, with the Entities in substantial compliance with the military provisions of the Peace Agreement.

7. During the period under review, SFOR troops conduct 79 weapons storage site inspections: 18 Bosnian Serb; 29 Bosniac; 15 Bosnian Croat; and 17 Federation. The inspection of weapons storage sites to ensure compliance remains a priority task for SFOR.

8. SFOR troops monitored 276 training and movement activities during the reporting period: 115 Bosnian Serb; 81 Bosniac; 8 Bosnian Croat; and 72 Federation.

9. Over the period, a total of 350 mine-clearing activities were monitored: 158 Bosnian Serb; 90 Bosniac; 24 Bosnian Croat; and 78 Federation.

Cooperation with international organizations

10. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organizations in theatre, including the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH), the International Police

Task Force, the Office of the High Representative, the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

11. SFOR continues to support the efforts of the Office of the High Representative by providing patrols to monitor the situation in Dobrinja.

12. SFOR provided assistance to the International Police Task Force during an inspection of the Banja Luka police station carried out from 1 to 8 October.

13. During the period under review, SFOR provided a safe and secure environment in support of the work of the International Tribunal in exhumations and reburials in the areas of Cajnice, Jakarina Kosa, Bos Petrovac, Gornji Vakuf, Stolac, Bos Krupa, Ilidza, Krupac, Drvar, Bugojno, Sarajevo and Foca; and at the end of October, during exhumations carried out from other mass graves in Sanski Most and Kljuc.

Displaced persons and refugees

14. SFOR continues to support UNHCR as displaced persons return to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tension among ethnic groups resulting from the return of displaced persons and refugees, particularly in eastern Republika Srpska and cantons 7 and 10, continues to be of concern.

Outlook

15. The overall security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains under control.

16. SFOR, the international community, and local government authorities have put in place a series of measures to counter any terrorist threat.